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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- MIDDLE EAST

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM MARCH 28 EDITORIAL IN LJUBLJANA DAILY QUOTE DELO UNQUOTE BY FOREIGN EDITOR ANDREJ NOVAK ENTITLED QUOTE INTERNAL DISCORD IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY UNQUOTE.

2. QUOTE AFTER PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S RETURN FROM WASHINGTON THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS ADMITTEDLY EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT OF HIM, BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT BEGIN IS MORE AND MORE BECOMING QUOTE A PROBLEM UNQUOTE AND NOT ONLY IN ISRAEL BUT IN ALL THE DIASPORA AND ESPECIALLY IN ITS MOST INFLUENTIAL SEGMENT, THE AMERICAN JEWS.

3. THE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT AFTER HIS ELECTION QUOTE BEGIN MANAGED TO DISPEL THE FEAR THAT HIS NOMINATION AT FIRST AROUSED BOTH IN THE WORLD AND IN ISRAEL UNQUOTE. AND THAT QUOTE BY THE TIME OF SADAT'S ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM MANY IF NOT THE MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS WERE CONVINCED BEGIN WOULD LEAD ISRAEL TO PEACE WITH MORE EASE THAN HIS LBAOR PREDECESSORS UNQUOTE.

4. QUOTE HOWEVER, THE MORE THE INITIAL EUPHORIA AFTER THE BEGINNING
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OF EGYPT-ISRAEL TALKS EBBED AND THE TALKS DROWNED IN THE QUICKSAND OF THE MIDDLE EAST, BEGIN'S MOVES RAISED DOUBTS IN ISRAEL - NOT ONLY WITH OPPOSITION BUT ALSO WITHIN HIS OWN CAMP UNQUOTE.

5. AFTER DISCUSSING INTERNAL ISRAELI POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN DETAIL, NOVAK SAID: QUOTE BEGIN'S POLICY ALSO HAS PROVOKED A DIVERGENCE IN THE INFLUENTIAL JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.

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SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON, ILL., STATED EVEN BEFORE BEGIN'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON: QUOTE IN MY OPINION THE SUPPORT/OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY/ OF ISRAEL IS FIRM, BUT THE SUPPORT OF BEGIN IS WEAK UNQUOTE. IT IS AN OPINION THAT HAS GREATLY SPREAD AFTER BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND AFTER THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BEGIN'S AND CARTER'S POINTS OF VIEW SHOWED CLEARLY UNQUOTE.

6. QUOTE TO THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY BEGIN'S INFLEXIBILITY IS MUCH MORE INCONVENIENT BECAUSE THE JEWISH LEADERS HAVE LONG CRITICIZED PRESIDENT CARTER IN THAT HIS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IS WEAKENING AND IN THAT HIS MIDDLE EAST POLICY IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY PRO-ARAB. LATELY, MORE AND MORE REPROACHES BY U.S. JEWISH LEADERS ARE MEANT FOR ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DECISIONS WHICH MAKE THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FACT NEW DILEMMAS. THE UNPLEASANT QUESTION OF DOUBLE LOYALTY IS PUT IN MORE COMPLICATED FORM- AMERICAN JEWS COULD MORE EASILY SUPPORT THE ISRAELI POLICY IF THERE WAS NO BEGIN. ON THE OTHER HAND THEY COULD BE MORE LOYAL TO THE U.S. POLICY IF IT WERE NOT FOR CARTER OR AT LEAST SOME OF HIS ADVISERS, ESPECIALLY ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI.

7. JUDGING FROM THE AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WIELDS IN WASHINGTON AND HOW IMPORTANT WASHINGTON'S POINT OF VIEW IS TO ISRAEL, WE CAN SURMISE THAT THE DIVERGENCE IN THE U.S. ACCELERATES DIVERGENCE IN ISRAEL. THUS IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT BEGIN COULD BECOME A QUOTE SACRIFICIAL LAMB UNQUOTE EVEN THOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT ISRAELIS HAVE AT SIMILAR CRITICAL TIMES
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IN THE PAST TENDED TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF UNITY AND TO SOLVE THE INTERNAL STRUGGLES BEHIND A CURTAIN UNQUOTE.

8. QUOTE DISREGARDING HOW THIS INTERNAL STRUGGLE ENDS IT IS CLEAR THE OUTCOME WILL INFLUENCE ALL THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, THOUGH PERHAPS NOT AS STRONGLY AS IT SEEMS FROM THE OUTSIDE. JUST BECAUSE OF THIS BEGIN'S PROBLEMS ARE WORTHY OF ALL THE ATTENTION UNQUOTE.
CATHERMAN

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